

27 August 1956

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MEMORANDUM FOR: [REDACTED]

SUBJECT: Anti-Communist Legislation

1. This memorandum is for your information.
2. ^{25X1A9a} We are transmitting herewith "An Outline for Anti-Communist Legislation," prepared by [REDACTED] in compliance with your request. We hope that this study will contribute to the solution of your problems.
3. We wish to suggest however that in making use of this study you keep in mind -- and remind everybody concerned -- that the defeat of Communism cannot be accomplished by legislation alone. Laws are only as effective as the existing measures to enforce them. Communism is a broad phenomenon reaching into all spheres of life. Well-coordinated action by the government as well as by the largest possible number of private citizens and their political, social and other organizations is essential to cope with the threat of international Communism in any given country.
4. Furthermore, the fight against Communism must not be limited to anti-Communist measures whether legislative or propagandistic. A government or political party, determined to ban the Communist danger, must provide for a sufficiently stable political system, for adequate solutions to the major economic and social ills affecting the country and must offer discontented groups of the population constructive alternatives which they can choose instead of the phony, yet highly attractive-looking solutions offered by Communism.
5. In quite a few countries, the Communists have actually benefited from repression. It can be no accident that the weakest Communist parties in Western Europe exist in those countries where they have been always legally permitted, as in England, Switzerland or Sweden. On the other hand, the strongest and most dangerous Communist parties in Western Europe have emerged

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after years of illegality, as in France or in Italy. The illegality of a Communist party does not necessarily prevent it from playing a significant role in political affairs, as we have seen in the cases of Brazil and Egypt. All these experiences indicate clearly that a half-hearted and insufficient repression of Communism may have entirely undesirable results.

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Chief

[REDACTED]

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22 August 1956

Distribution: Orig. & 1 - 25X1A8a

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